

*Seycove Secondary Choirs*  
2017-2018 Handbook

*“Music can change the world because it can change people.”*  
— Bono



September 5, 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Seycove's Choral Program for the 2017-2018 school year! Being a part of the choral community at Seycove means experiencing high school life in a more creative, connected, and supportive environment. It is my hope that your choir class(es) will bring you joy and release during stressful times throughout the year, as well as a sense of accomplishment and pride. I look forward to working with you as we continue the strong tradition of choral excellence at Seycove.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with important information about Seycove's choir program. In it, you will find the following:

**Choir Course Codes and Descriptions**  
**Grading System**  
**Rehearsal Procedures and Expectations**  
**Seycove Music's Attendance Policy**  
**Performance Dress Code/Uniforms**  
**Folder and Uniform Order Form**  
**Important Dates**  
**General Information**  
**Media Release Form**  
**Acknowledgement Form**

Please read through all of the handbook's contents and use it as a reference throughout the year.

It is my intention as your choir director to help you recognize your full potential as singers, choristers, musicians, and artists during your time in Seycove's music program. You will learn proper vocal technique, music theory, history, sight singing and some truly exceptional choral music. You will explore self-expression and cultivate your leadership and communication skills. You will make lifelong friends and you will perform with them at the highest level. Most importantly, I will foster your love of singing in a safe, nurturing choral community within our school and within the larger community. In return, I ask that you respect one another, show responsibility and dedication to your ensemble(s), and always strive for excellence, even in rehearsal.

Singing in a choir is unlike any other human experience. If you participate wholeheartedly, the joy and sense of pride and accomplishment you will feel will stay with you for the rest of your life. Let's have a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Melodie Langevin  
Director of Choirs  
Seycove Secondary  
[mlangevin@sd44.ca](mailto:mlangevin@sd44.ca)  
seycovemusic.ca

# Choir Descriptions

## **Choir 8**

### **MMU--08**

This ensemble is open to all students in Grade 8 who enjoy music and wish to become better singers and performers. Students in Choir 8 will learn the basics of music theory, vocal technique, sight singing, and vowel formation, as well as learn and perform music in a variety of different styles. While not a prerequisite for other Seycove choirs, it is highly encouraged that students wishing to be in auditioned ensembles in the future start singing in Choir 8.

## **Junior Chamber Choir**

### **MMU--09, MMCC-10, MCMCC11, MCMCC12**

Junior Chamber Choir is a non-auditioned ensemble for mixed voices. Students sing and perform quality repertoire from a wide variety of genres, cultures, and styles and build musicianship through learning music theory, vocal technique, sight singing, and ear training. While not a prerequisite for Senior Chamber Choir, it is highly encouraged that students wishing to sing in Sr. Chamber Choir in the future first sing in Jr. Chamber. *\*Please note that the course code will read "Concert Choir"*

## **Men's Choir**

### **MMU--09, MMCC-10, MCMCC11, MCMCC12**

The Men's Choir is an auditioned TTBB ensemble that performs a wide variety of repertoire spanning many different genres including doo-wop, barbershop, contemporary rock, pop, classical, and folk music. This ensemble performs throughout the year and participates in festivals and competitions. *\*Please note that the course code will read "Concert Choir"*

## **Women's Choir**

### **MMU--09, MMCC-10, MCMCC11, MCMCC12**

The Women's Choir is an auditioned SSAA ensemble that performs a wide variety of repertoire spanning many different genres including world, contemporary rock, pop, classical, and folk music. This ensemble performs throughout the year and participates in festivals and competitions. *\*Please note that the course code will read "Concert Choir"*

## **Senior Chamber Choir**

### **YVPA-0F, YVPA-1F, YVPA-2F**

Seycove's Senior Chamber Choir is an advanced auditioned mixed ensemble that performs challenging choral repertoire and participates in festivals and competitions. This high-achieving ensemble learns advanced music theory concepts, vocal technique, ear training, and sight singing and performs at a number of school events throughout the year. The Sr. Chamber Choir also travels nationally and internationally.

## **Intermediate Vocal Jazz**

### **MMU--09-VJ, MMVJ-10, MCMJV11, MCMJV12**

Intermediate Vocal Jazz is a non-auditioned small mixed vocal jazz ensemble for students interested in learning and performing jazz and pop repertoire. Students in this ensemble should be comfortable with performing solos and experimenting with improvising and scatting. This group performs a cappella and with a rhythm section.

## **Jazz in the Box**

### **MCMJV11AUD, MCMJV12AUD**

An auditioned senior vocal jazz ensemble, Jazz in the Box is for advanced singers in Grades 11 and 12 who are comfortable with singing solos and looking to improve their ability to improvise, transcribe, and scat through taking risks and practicing. This ensemble performs challenging vocal jazz charts, either a cappella or accompanied by a rhythm section.

# Grading System

*Singing in a choir is not a passive activity; thus, students will be graded on their engagement and participation during class. This includes attendance, tardiness, participation, and attitude. Failure to attend class prevents active student engagement.*

*In addition to assignments, projects, tests, and performances, each student will be given a mark out of 10 for daily participation. Doing work for other classes or work not assigned during class, sleeping, social talking, being tardy or leaving class early without an excuse are all circumstances that may result in a reduced mark out of 10. Students will not receive a mark for days on which they have unexcused absences.*

Student grades will be based on the following:

## Daily Participation

Students will be given a mark out of 10 for every class. Marks will be lost for:

- Excessive socializing or talking
- Gum or food (unless a lunch hour class)
- Garbage left behind after class
- Materials not brought to or being used in class
- Idle participation (ex. doing homework for another class)
- Poor or negative attitude
- Unauthorized use of electronic devices
- Disruptive behaviour

## Assignments and Projects

## Theory and Singing Tests

## Performances

Failure to attend a performance will result in a mark of 0.

The breakdown of marks will be as follows:

Daily Participation	40%
Performances	30%
Assignments and Projects	15%
Theory and Singing Tests	15%

# Rehearsal Procedures and Expectations

## **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken **immediately** at the beginning of class so we do not waste valuable rehearsal time. Whenever possible, please arrive early.

## **Preparation**

The rehearsal schedule will be on the board before you arrive so you can put your repertoire in order. This will allow us to transition smoothly from one piece to the next.

## **Binder/Folder**

Keep your binder or folder tidy and organized and stored in your folder slot. This means making sure you have all of the current repertoire and that you recycle/return any repertoire that you no longer need.

## **Pencil**

It is essential that you bring a pencil to rehearsal so you do not forget important markings like breaths, cut-offs, vowel shape, etc.

## **Music**

Treat all of your sheet music with care. Originals are expensive and photocopies may not always be readily available.

## **Food and Drinks**

Do NOT leave food/drinks or empty food/drink containers in the choir room (for obvious reasons). The only time food or drinks are allowed on the risers is during lunch hour rehearsals.

## **Ensemble Etiquette**

Chatting with your neighbour while the director is talking is disrespectful. As soon as rehearsal begins, everyone's focus is on the director and the music.

Remember that we are endeavouring to achieve a high level of choral performance at all times; in order to sing well as an ensemble, all members must trust one another and treat each other with respect.

## **End of Rehearsal**

It is expected that all of your belongings – including things like torn sheets of paper and hoodies – will leave the choir room with you at the end of rehearsal.

## Seycove Music Attendance Policies

### If you have...

- a. **a regularly occurring conflict between this course and another activity, such as an outside-of-school team**, speak with your instructor about it in September. If you are not available for most of the classes, it's just not fair to others and you will not be allowed to take this course.
- b. **a medical appointment, illness or emergency**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. Please make sure your parents call the office to excuse your absence. Please make your best effort not to schedule these appointments during our class time.
- c. **a field trip**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. The office will mark you absent.
- d. **a game for a Seycove team**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know at the start of the season about any upcoming absences. The office will mark you absent.
- e. **a practice or team meeting, these do NOT take precedence over class time and you should not miss class for them, generally**. If you absolutely must attend an important practice that conflicts with your class, bring your instructor your team schedule at the start of the season and together you will plan which, if any, classes/rehearsals you will miss.
- f. **a project or a make-up test to do, volunteering or a club meeting**. These do not take precedence over our class time, even if we meet in an x-block. You should not miss rehearsal for these things, generally, but if you ask permission ahead of time it might be possible depending on the rehearsal plan.
- g. **a family event, such as a birthday, vacation or other events of a personal nature**. Your parents have the right to call the school to excuse you in these instances, however please be aware that all absences impact the group negatively and impede progress. All students have made personal sacrifices in order to attend and have a great experience, including planning their personal time to happen later. Whenever possible, book personal events outside of class time.
- h. **a part time job. You should never miss school, even x-block classes, for a part-time job**. Employers cannot insist that you miss school. Give employers your school schedule early to avoid conflicts later. If it happens, we wouldn't want you to lose your job, but let's talk about how we can ensure it never happens again.

# **Performance Dress Code**

## **Grade 8 Choir**

Choir 8 students will wear their 2017-2018 Seycove Music T-shirts that they must purchase at the beginning of the year. Below the shirt it must be all black; black pants or skirt (with black tights), black socks, and black shoes.

## **Jr. Chamber Choir**

Students in Jr. Chamber Choir wear all black. This includes socks and shoes. If female students choose to wear skirts, the skirt must be at least knee-length and worn with black tights.

## **Men's Choir**

Students in Men's Choir wear all black with a blue tie that they must purchase at the beginning of the year. "All black" includes socks and shoes.

## **Women's Choir**

Students in Women's Choir wear black dresses that, if they do not already own one, they must purchase at the beginning of the year. Black, reasonably heeled shoes are a must.

## **Senior Chamber Choir**

Male members of the Sr. Chamber Choir wear all black with a blue tie that, if need be, must be purchased at the beginning of the year. "All black" includes socks and shoes. Female members wear black dresses that, if need be, must be purchased at the beginning of the year. The dress must be accompanied by black, reasonably heeled shoes.

## **Intermediate Vocal Jazz**

Students in this vocal jazz ensemble wear all black with a colour accent. The ensemble chooses the accent colour at the beginning of the year.

## **Jazz in the Box**

This ensemble is responsible for deciding on a colour scheme for the year and ordering the men's ties and ladies' dresses in September. Male students wear all black with their coloured ties.

## Seycove Choirs Start-of-Year Order Form

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Item</b>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
<b>Supplies</b>			
<b>Personalized Choir Folder</b> (yours to keep year to year; optional)		<b>\$20</b>	
<b>Uniforms</b>			
<b>Grade 8 T-Shirt</b> (yours to keep)		<b>\$15</b>	
<b>Boys' 9 to 12 Blue Tie</b> (yours to keep year to year)		<b>\$25</b>	
<b>Girls' Black Dress</b> (new; yours to keep or sell back to the program later)		<b>\$85</b>	
<b>Girls' Black Dress</b> (used; supplies are very limited)		<b>\$20</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

**Please enclose a cheque for the amount above made payable to “Seycove Secondary”. Write your son or daughter’s name and “choir start of year” in the memo line. Attach it to this order form and drop them in the locked drop box by the end of September.** (Post-dated cheques are fine, too – please highlight the date). There are programs available for any family whose financial circumstances make these fees unaffordable. Please speak with me in confidence or send me an e-mail [mlangevin@sd44.ca](mailto:mlangevin@sd44.ca).

Please note that choir folders, t-shirts, ties and dresses each take a minimum of two weeks to arrive. Thank you for your patience.

## **Important Dates**

<b>7:00 PM, Wed., Sept 13, 2017</b>	First Seycove Music Parents' Association Meeting
<b>7:00 PM, Wed., Sept 27, 2017</b>	Seycove Music Parents' Association AGM
<b>10:00 AM, Fri., Nov 10, 2017</b>	Remembrance Day Assembly
<b>Fri., Nov 17-19, 2017</b>	Grade 8 Music Retreat to Zajac Ranch
<b>Fri., Dec 1, 2017</b>	Term One Ends
<b>7:00 PM, Fri., Dec 8, 2017</b>	Seycove Choirs' Christmas Concert
<b>Thurs., Dec 15, 2017</b>	Elementary School Tour
<b>7:00 AM, Fri., Dec 22, 2017</b>	Santa's Breakfast
<b>7:00 PM, Fri., Feb 16, 2018</b>	Feb Blues
<b>7:00 PM, Thurs., Mar 1, 2018</b>	Spring Choir Concert
<b>Fri., Mar 2, 2018</b>	Term Two Ends
<b>Wed., Apr 5-8, 2018</b>	Kiwanis Music Festival
<b>Thurs., Apr 12-15, 2018</b>	Canadian Rocky Mountain Festival
<b>Thurs., Apr 19-22, 2018</b>	Con Brio Whistler Festival
<b>6:00 PM, Sat., June 2, 2018</b>	Cabaret
<b>7:00 PM, Fri., June 8, 2018</b>	Year-End Choir Concert and Awards
<b>Wed., June 21, 2018</b>	Term Three Ends
<b>7:00 PM, Fri., June 23, 2018</b>	Music Alumni Concert

# General Information

## Private Voice Lessons

Students in the Seycove Choral Program are highly encouraged to study singing with a private voice instructor. Benefits of doing so include:

- increased vocal confidence
- increased vocal range, agility, and power
- improved musicianship
- improved stage presence and communication skills
- more performance opportunities

## Fundraising

Students learn a great deal in their choir classes but they are able to experience so much more through workshops with knowledgeable clinicians, using with the best equipment and resources, and by singing in different environments and locations. We also believe that every student should be able to participate in all of the fantastic events and trips that our music program offers. For this reason, we have several fundraising ventures available to students in our program. These fundraising opportunities are listed below. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Purdys Chocolatier

SPUD

Cob's Bread

## Recording Studio Use

The Seycove Music Program is fortunate to have two Mac computers that run Logic Pro, a music editing program. While we encourage students to take advantage of the software, please be mindful of classes that are in session and teachers working in the music office. We have a limit of 6 students for the space and we ask that students use headphones while working on their music.

# Media Release Form

We are continually promoting the Seycove Music Program and advocating for quality music education in our district. In order for us to showcase to our community the musical and creative talent we have in our program, we may need to use photos or videos that include your son/daughter on our website, in brochures, or on social media. Such photos and videos will always reflect the high level of musicality and performance that we strive for at Seycove.

**I understand that the Seycove Music Program may take photos and/or videos of students during class and at events for use in educational or promotional materials in print, multimedia, or web form. Photos/videos will only be used for purposes related to the Seycove Music program.**

Please check the correct box below as to whether you do wish or do not wish to grant Seycove Music permission to use your son/daughter's photos/videos.

Additionally, please sign this form in verification of your permission regarding Seycove Music's use of your son/daughter's photos/videos.

- I DO grant permission for the use of my child's photo/video.
- I DO NOT grant permission for the use of my child's photo/video.

Child's Name

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Guardian Name

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Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgement Form

*I acknowledge that I have read and understand the 2017-2018 Seycove Secondary School Choral Music Handbook. I understand that being in the music program at Seycove is an important commitment. By signing this form, I pledge to honour that commitment and do my part to help make my ensemble(s) successful.*

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Student Name (Printed)

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Please return to Ms. Langevin by Friday, September 29, 2017.**